

Appln. No. 10/052,061
Reply to Office Action of June 17, 2003

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] In order to meet these needs, the present invention is directed to an improved iceberg lettuce variety that exhibits vigorous growth, increased weight and yield. In particular, the present invention is directed to lettuce, *Lactuca sativa*, seed designated as Pacer having ATCC Accession Number [[____]] PTA-4010. The present invention is further directed to a lettuce, *Lactuca sativa* plant produced by growing Pacer lettuce seed having ATCC Accession Number [[____]] PTA-4010. The present invention is further directed to a *Lactuca sativa* plant having all the physiological and morphological characteristics of a *Lactuca sativa* plant produced by growing Pacer lettuce seed having ATCC Accession Number [[____]] PTA-4010. The present invention is further directed to a F₁ hybrid lettuce, *Lactuca sativa* plant having Pacer as a parent wherein Pacer is grown from Pacer lettuce seed having ATCC Accession Number [[____]] PTA-4010.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The present invention is further directed to a method of selecting lettuce plants comprising a) growing parental Pacer lettuce plants wherein the parental Pacer plants are grown from lettuce seed having ATCC Accession Number [[____]] PTA-4010 and b) selecting a progeny plant from step a) wherein said progeny plant is phenotypically distinguishable from the Pacer plant. The present invention is further directed to lettuce plants and seeds produced by the lettuce plants wherein the lettuce plants are isolated by the selection method of the invention.

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Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] The present invention is further directed to a method of breeding lettuce plants comprising crossing a lettuce plant with a plant grown from Pacer lettuce seed having ATCC Accession Number [[]] PTA-4010. The present invention is further directed to lettuce plants and seeds produced therefrom where the lettuce plant is isolated by the breeding method of the invention.

Please replace paragraph [0048] with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] Applicants have made available to the public without restriction a deposit of at least 2500 seeds of lettuce variety Pacer with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), [[Rockville, MD 20852]] P.O. BOX 1549, MANASSAS, VA 20108 USA, with a deposit on [[]] January 24, 2002 which has been assigned ATCC number [[]] PTA-4010.